

Leaflet

Public and Private Workers of Canada

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Public and Private Workers of Canada

In This Issue...

- ♦ P6 Whats going on at the Locals?
- ♦ P9 Pension Plan Update
- ♦ P14 On the Forestry Front
- ♦ P21 5th Annual Walbran Convergence



2018/19 Winter Issue

National



Gary Fiege
PPWC President
250.715.8320



Todd Smith
PPWC 1st Vice-President
778.246.0967



Wayne Martin
PPWC 2nd Vice-President
604.227.5815



Al Sahlen
Secretary-Treasurer
250.613.8730



Dean MacKinnon
PPWC Environmental
Officer
250.365.1885



Glenn Calder
PPWC Forest Resources
Officer
250.756.5797



Rod Gallant
PPWC Occupational
Health & Safety Officer
250.756.5797



Ron Richardson
PPWC Leaflet Editor
250.564.0896

PPWC National Office Staff

Chen Xu
Office & Benefits Administrator

Christina Nelson
Administrative Assistant
Leaflet Layout & Production

PPWC 
Public and Private Workers of Canada

PPWC National Office
Suite 201—1184 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6H 1A4
Telephone: 604.731.1909
Toll Free: 1.888.992.7792
Website: www.ppwc.ca

Letter from the Editor

Well hello everyone from the Great White North well not quite white.

I hope everyone is ready for the festive season ahead, and hasn't gone broke doing so.

It hasn't been an easy go trying to get this edition out because of the lack of articles from the locals. We really need the help of all of you to get this newsletter out. I would really like to thank Christina for all that she has done to get these editions out. She has been a godsend to me.

Again, I would like to wish everyone a very terrific holiday season, but remember to stay safe and if you drink, don't drive.

Also, remember this is your NEWSLETTER and it takes your submissions to get done.

In Solidarity,
Ron Richardson, Leaflet Editor



Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your recent generous gift of \$400 and for your ongoing support of the youth Covenant House serves.

I recently had the privilege of hearing three of our youth share their experiences about Covenant House. Their hopeful spirit made me realize how much our work matters.

Here are some of their words, directed especially to other homeless youth like them, who are looking for hope.

"When you come to Covenant House, you can start as a blank state – it's up to you to make the most of this opportunity and make the changes you need in your life. Take it seriously. Give the effort."

"Even though I no longer live here, I still consider Covenant Youth House my home. The staff, they are all my family. I come back as often as I can and try to give back because they helped me so much. I think about Covenant House every day."

When asked about their goals, one youth said:

"My dream is to become a social worker and to work at Covenant House. I will meet great people and help other kids like me."

Such incredible messages of gratitude and hope. Thank you for being part of this special community. It is because of you that our youth can share these experiences and learn the skills they need to change their lives.

Best regards,
Mark Savard, Development Officer – Community Giving

Dear Public and Private Workers of Canada,

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world." - Dolores Huerta

Happy Labour Day from your fellow workers at WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre.

Thank you for supporting survivors of sexualized violence.

Sincerely,
WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre



Dear PPWC,

Thank you for supporting survivors!

Your generosity makes healing possible.

Sincerely,
Marvin, Educational Outreach Worker

From the Desk of the President...

Well, it is that time again when I get the privilege of putting my thoughts to paper and where I get the opportunity to let you all know what is going on in our great Union. It is important that I keep you, the membership, informed as to what the National is doing on your behalf. On the opposite end of the spectrum, I/we need to hear from you, the membership. What is important to you, needs to be important to us. One avenue to let us know your thoughts would be this publication "The Leaflet". This is truly the memberships' newsletter. Not mine, not the locals and not the Nationals. It is yours, the collective membership of the PPWC. That is why I opened this piece with "privilege"!

Since the last edition of the Leaflet, summer has waned and now fall is turning to winter. Time keeps sliding away. When I look back, it is hard to fathom the amount of effort put in by the Locals, Executive Board, Table Officers and of course, our Administrative Professionals. There are no shortages of issues to tackle, be it negotiations, training, support, organizing, lobbying, visiting locals... I could go on and on (some might say, I always do), but suffice it to say that your representatives are working their proverbial butts off for you.

Our office is ticking along and is working like a well-oiled machine. Chen Xu and Christina Nelson are making the officers look good with their work ethic and professionalism. We continue to train and constantly are trying to improve things in an effort to push efficiencies. Along with our daily and monthly duties, Chen and Christina are working closely with Locals 1 and 26 as they plan our upcoming Convention on April 1st to 5th in the beautiful west Kootenay towns of Castlegar and Nelson.

We are continuing to fight for forestry issues. We are part of the "Coast Forestry Revitalization" process and are pushing for substantive change in forestry practices. Not change for the sake of change, but rather change that drives more employment opportunities to us, the people of British Columbia and not some nationals of a foreign country. Change that attracts investment in our forest industry that will further create more economic stability for our communities. Change that supports rural BC and not just the urban centers. Change that involves First Nations and the communities they represent as true partners in forestry in particular and resource management as a whole. Change that protects the valuable valley bottoms of the dwindling old growth forests before they are gone forever.

The Coast is not the only place in BC that relies on the forest for economic viability. We continue to help our locals by supporting them as they try to push issues that are near and dear to them. As vast as our province is, so too are the vast differences of issues we face in relation to forestry resources. These differences tie us together in a way that strengthens us and sees us constantly being at the forefront of discussions.

Environmental activism is and always has been an integral part of the PPWC. It helps define us as an organization that truly cares about the communities our locals operate in. We continue to work with the environmental groups to make sure that our planet is here into the future for our children and in fact, all generations to come. I am very proud of our environmental achievements and look forward to future opportunities.

"These differences tie us together in a way that strengthens us and sees us constantly being at the forefront of discussions."

Finally, Canada is respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). We, as a society, are trying to right the wrongs of the past 150 plus years of Colonial rule that saw these peoples treated in less than acceptable ways. Again, I am proud to say that we have pushed all levels of government to respect the inherent rights of First Nations. I attended a forum on the implementation of UNDRIP and what it means in practical terms to the province of British Columbia and was well represented by industry. The right words were spoken throughout the day, but words without action are hollow and will do more harm than good if we do not follow through with them.

We have many organizing opportunities that we are chasing down. It can be a frustrating endeavor trying to organize the unorganized or poorly represented and there are many failures along the way. However, the successes keep us motivated and we will continue to push the boundaries.

As this edition of the Leaflet will come out just prior to Christmas I would like to take the opportunity to wish all the members and their families a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Mawlid el-Nabi, Winter Solstice, and Rohatsu. Any time you put a list together, you run the risk of missing some. Therefore, the aforementioned list is not meant to hit all religious holidays over the next month or so, rather it is showing respect to others during a mainly Christian holiday season.

In Solidarity,
Gary Fiege

 PPWC President

From the Desk of the 1st Vice-President...

I am always wondering what our membership wants to hear from their 1st Vice-President; current events, empathy for the world, history of our Union, who I am, what do I see for a future for this this Union, your Union, my Union or even unions in general. So many various topics. To be completely honest, I think the biggest challenge for unions in general, is connecting with the young worker. I can't really blame them. We can sometimes seem like loud, aggressive alpha types who seemingly force our opinion down workers throats. Let's face it, the majority of workers don't even see the need for a union. They just go about their day, working and supporting their family while collecting pay and taking vacations. Here's the kicker; all of the window dressings like vacations, benefits, job security, and pensions are because of unions. I believe that all of us take these luxuries for granted. What I mean is, I didn't fight for any of these things. Much braver and greater people than I did. They risked and sacrificed everything to fight for what they believed in, even endangering their lives. I must say that I have been truly blessed in my life by all of this window dressing.

As I get older and closer to the end of my journey, I see things different then I once did. I think one of my most important rolls is to inspire our future by not only reflecting on our past, but by also listening to the young worker. By understanding that I cannot walk in their shoes as mine are worn, I cannot see through their eyes, but I will listen to their voice. It is vital that we all have a hand in and make sure a hand reaches out to carry on with such a precious torch. Unfortunately, this work can be under appreciated, exhausting, selfless, and employers may target you at times. It is also extremely rewarding to help others, but it does come with personal sacrifice. However, through this comes strength and with strength comes solidarity, and this is the bases of all unions or it should be. You, we, us, collectively preserve, improve and protect the workers balance from discriminatory acts, improve monetary compensation, protect the workers right to be safe among so many other rights and earned benefits.

My last words are shame to any union if they forget whom they serve because our Union should or would never be 'me' or 'I'. It will always be 'you, us and yours.'

In solidarity,
Todd Smith
PPWC National 1st Vice-President

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 25 – 27	PPWC Safety Conference <i>Chateau Granville, Vancouver, BC</i>
FEBRUARY 28 & MARCH 1	Joint Safety Conference <i>Coast Hotel, Vancouver, BC</i>
APRIL 1 & 2	Labour School <i>Sandman Hotel, Castlegar, BC</i>
APRIL 3 - 5	57 th Annual PPWC Convention <i>Sandman Hotel, Castlegar, BC</i>
APRIL 29 – MAY 2	Environmental/Forestry Seminar <i>Nanaimo, BC</i>
MAY 6 – 9	WCB Advocacy Training <i>Chateau Granville, Vancouver, BC</i>

LOCAL 1 Castlegar, BC

August drew to an end, with three forest fires called the SYRINGA COMPLEX, surrounding Castlegar and the pulp mill. The air advisory was one of the worst in all of B.C. There was a combined estimate of over 8,000 hectares of forest lost.

The smoke lingered as Local 1 PPWC Castlegar held a very successful September Labour Day picnic. Softball and face painting were popular activities, with draw prizes for kids and adults.

There is a new BCSPCA West Kootenay Animal Centre branch in Castlegar, that Celgar has helped to sponsor. The mill has been participating in an environmental Effects Monitoring program on the Columbia River. This program monitors the effects of the mills effluent with regards to fish and fish habitat. The program this year has stations on both shores of the lower Columbia River, monitoring the condition of sculpin, a member of the Cottidae family of fish. They are bottom dwellers. Heading into fall, there has been good feedback from the community. Celgar has donated, for the second year in a row, reflective arm bands to the students in Castlegar, preparing them for a safer night out this Halloween.

(Continued on page 6)

Mercer expansion plans in Australia, and new Canadian acquisitions have created a lot of discussion lately. Mercer International Inc. has entered into an agreement to acquire the Santanol Group. They own and lease approximately 2,500 hectares of existing Indian sandalwood plantations, and a processing and extraction plant in North West Australia. The sandalwood will be harvested for its wood and processed for some of its uses in fragrances and cosmetics.

Mercer International INC acquired Daishowa-Marubeni International LTD. DMI, own and operates a swing NBSK and NBHK mill in Peace River, Alberta. DMI also has a 50% interest in a NBSK pulp mill in Quesnel, B.C.

From smoke to snow, all the best of the seasons.

In Solidarity,
Local 1 NEB
Larry Walker

LOCAL 2 Crofton, BC

As you all have likely heard, Catalyst Paper has sold their mills including both pulp and paper mills here in Crofton to Paper Excellence. We have heard mixed reviews about Paper Excellence, and are sceptical that this new company will work with us for improved safety and a better working relationship. That being said we as a union will continue to move forward and fight for our rights.

The last few years saw a huge back log in grievances that finally got completed this year. This took a lot of time and effort added with frustration and stress for our local executives to finally get them all dealt with. Catalyst Paper continues to play games with us, and at best the HR department has been impossible to deal with.

On a brighter note the company has done more hiring in 2018 giving us 48 new members, and we have had 7 retirements this year. We have nominated and elected a strong executive board within our local, and our monthly newsletter has been circulating again after a long lay off.

In Solidarity,
Chris Wipplinger
1st Vice-President
Local 2

LOCAL 5 New Westminster, BC

A general membership meeting was finally held and nominations concluded for the 2019 term.

This is a great example of the chaos that can be caused by the failure of the membership to attend meetings. Mike Krische has been acclaimed as alternate NEB member and trustee. John Folkers and Mike will be posting the resume posters of the candidates and leaving ballot boxes and ballots. Sign in sheets will be supplied. Please read the voting instructions carefully and ensure this election is run according to our bylaws and Constitution. The differentiation between this union and other unions of foreign domination (US), is the independence and democracy upon which it relies.

In Solidarity,
Ken McKenzie
Local 5

LOCAL 8 Nanaimo, BC

Things are coming along at our Local. We have had executive changes here at our Local. With our President, Gerald de Jong, retiring and Les Hillier also retiring, both guys have been over 40-year employees at Harmac and active in the Union for many years. We will miss their dedication and endless support in the drive for improved work places, health and welfares benefits and pensions for workers at Harmac, including our other certifications and all levels of the PPWC around the Province.

Rod Gallant has been elected as the new President and Al Delcourt is elected for 1st Vice. Our second Vice is

Mike Federici. We have a new Master Shop Steward as well along with new comer, Brad Shaw joining the ranks.

Harmac is doing well with pulp prices up, which has helped our bottom line. We have had down time on smelt leaks in our recovery boiler, which the members had to take down under the rules of safety. Things are back up and running and hopefully this issue is now fixed.

Our Ladysmith mill has had a tough go with the mill shutting down in the plant for over 5 weeks. This was a very tough go on our members with only the tradesman mainly getting work. The summer forest fires and competitive market for small log wood has been

hard on this mill. Since starting back up, the mill has been running great.

Value Added Mill in Chemainus is surviving the lack of wood so far as they are more of a specialty remanufacturing mill. That being said, let's hope they aren't affected with the other mills that supply them running lean.

Long Hoh has been doing great with wood supply lately which has made for a positive work place.

ColdStar distributions have been going along fairly well with a competitive market in the food distribution industry.

Exciting times ahead for our Local with growth plans. New comers are wanting to join our awesome Union. We are working with many groups to see if they are a fit for us as a whole of the PPWC. Work safe everyone and keep carrying the torch for workers rights in the workplace.

In Solidarity,
Rod Gallant
Local 8 President

LOCAL 9

Prince George, BC

Hello one and all. Greetings from up in the middle of our great province. I hope everyone is getting ready for the white time of the year, a.k.a. winter.

The summer around here was a bit of a mixed bag. Yet again, it was mostly smoky this year and was so bad that day seemed like night.

Local 9 held their annual Labour Day Picnic, which was well attended and everyone enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs. Once again, Unifor 603 was involved



Pictured L to R: Nick Fremmerlid, Jessie Beaugrand, Dave Boyes, Wayne Parma, Len Shenkel, Tom Johnson.

and shared the cooking responsibilities alongside our recreation committee.

Local 9 celebrated our 50th Anniversary and was done in conjunction with the Labour Day picnic where everyone enjoyed a couple of cakes.

Just recently, there was a Shop Stewards course held at the union hall put on by Gary Fiege and Todd Smith. Unfortunately, Gary had to return to Vancouver for other business during the second day, but Todd took on the roll as teacher on his own and did a fantastic job.

Well, I hope everyone has a great festive season and stays safe.

In Solidarity,
Ron Richardson
Local 9



Todd Smith facilitating the Shop Steward course at Local 9 in Prince George. Also pictured is Dustin Pitcher, Cole Callaghan and Len Shenkel.

Want to win PPWC swag?

All you have to do is submit an article to the Leaflet.

Your name will be entered into a monthly draw for a chance to win.

Members and retirees are eligible.

Contact the Editor

leaflet@ppwc.ca

Please also COPY national@ppwc.ca

Articles should be between 250 and 1,000 word in length.

Please submit any relevant graphics with your article.

Please note that articles containing defamatory writings will not be selected for print.

LOCAL 15

Kimberley, BC

The 2019 calendars and Union Cards for our newer members have arrived and will be distributed.

Our 2019 WCB Advocates will be Barry Touzin and Amy Salomons. The Health & Welfare Committee remains the same. The Wage Delegates will be Ryan Grier, Mark Berkhien and Ray Laboucane. CCU delegates will be Ryan Grier and Derrek Stanley. Leighton Wilson will serve as our Chief Shop Steward. Thanks to all for stepping up.

Voting for Standing Committee and Alternates will take place from December 12th to the 15th. Voting for Standing Committee Alternate, CCU Executive Board and Wage Delegate will be held in the future according to our Bylaws.

The Local notified the Mill Manager of seven grievances that need to be dealt with at Third Stage. An Arbitrator has been selected for the Shop Steward grievances, we are awaiting dates that work for all. We will be holding a Special Meeting to deal with all unresolved grievances as we ran out of time at our last two meetings. As the Company insists on ignoring the local's concerns, the boycott remains.

Fraternally,
Tim Strachan
Local 15 President

LOCAL 18

Mackenzie, BC

Brothers and Sisters,

Snow has fallen and we've been busy at Local 18. While Canfor has recently announced curtailments for 5 of their divisions, including ours, they have been spending a large amount in enhancing the operation over the last 12 months. It could be frivolous spending, only time will tell. Record setting profits for the company as a whole, but we are still struggling to maintain the targeted production goals while dealing with manning issues due to retirement and voluntary termination's, leaving vacancies in many key jobs.

We've come a long way as a Local and as we prepare for bargaining, we have a lot of momentum and a ton of support from the National. Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season in conjunction with a prosperous New Year!

In Solidarity,
Peter Merkley
Local 18 President
NEB Member

LOCAL 26

Castlegar, BC

At this time of year, it seems appropriate to reflect on the year that was and prepare for the year that will be.

During 2018, we faced many challenges. One of the main issues we faced, and faced for years, was the extremely low wages the members of our I.T. Department were receiving as compared to the marketplace. These low wages caused continuous staff retention and hiring problems for the college. Our union recognized this trend approximately a decade ago with multiple attempts to remedy the problem. It fell on deaf ears until recently. It should be mentioned that any new financial decision that needs to be made by the college has to be run through a government agency (PSEA – Post Secondary Education Association). This includes bargaining. This agency is in essence the employer for post-secondary institutions and is basically another layer of bureaucracy in which we have to deal with. None the less, due to the urgent nature of what was happening with our I.T. staff, the need for increased wages was recognized and a labour market adjustment was made.

It should also be noted that the trend of wages way below market value is happening in other fields. Namely, trades and accounting. Hopefully we don't have to wait a decade or more for this to be remedied. One of the other challenges we are presently facing is contracting out. This is an ongoing battle, and without going into too much detail, we are working our way throughout the grievance procedure in order to find a solution.

Other good news that recently occurred was that some members of our cafeteria staff will be receiving stat and paid days off during the Christmas break. Historically, the college would lay off our cafeteria staff in early December and bring them back in January. This allowed the college to forego the need to pay stats and collective agreement language, which established days with pay that weren't stats during the time we shut down for the Christmas holidays. However, as the need increased for the cafeteria to stay open closer to the holiday season, the college was reluctant to pay those who deserved stats and collective language wages. After conversations at our latest Labour/Management meeting, management will keep some of the most senior staff on long enough to receive those days with pay.

Looking forward to the upcoming year, Local #26 has some important challenges. The biggest will be bargaining as our contract ends in December 2019. Still, we look forward to some of the events that will be occurring. Specifically helping co-host the upcoming convention along with Local #1.

In Solidarity,
Rod Fayant, Local 26 President

Pension Update November 2018

Market value of plan- \$4,081,346,000

2017 rate of return net of expenses- 8.61%

Plan expenses- .23%

Change in value- investment income and market value- \$336,000,000

Funded position of the fund- \$547,961,000

Accrued ratio- 115.5%

Aggregate ratio- 112.1%

Solvency ratio- 108.9%

Discount rate- 2017- 3.95%

2018- 3.80%

23,600 plan members- 4,843 actives

9,608 retirees

Average age of actives is 46.4 years old. Down from 47.2 in 2016

Contributions to the plan- 18%

Contributions available for benefits- 17.2% (attributable to our disabled participants who do not pay contributions)

Cost of basic benefits accrued by actives- 16.3%

Contribution amounts- Employer- \$37,053,000

Employee- \$27,286,000

\$64,339,000

Retiree payments- \$185,403,000

Average annual pension payable- \$15,420

72% of liabilities are in respect to inactive

participants- retiree and Terminated Vested Participants (TVP)

Early retirement incentive cost- \$380,740,000- Your trustees give consent for the early retirement incentive at each quarterly trustee meeting after carefully weighing the financial health and stability of the plan. This benefit is not an automatically given benefit as if it was a part of our "normal" benefits then this cost would go against our solvency valuation which would bring us below 100% solvency.

To give benefit increases the trustees must have assurance that these new obligations can be met with a high degree of certainty! The trustees have also set guidelines within the plan to help guide them in this decision. The trustees have set a threshold that must be maintained after the benefit improvements are made of keeping the fund above 105% funded on accrued and 100% on solvency.

The trustees have made a recommendation for their December trust meeting of improving benefits for our members beginning on January 1st 2019.

Trustees have recommended that the final 5 average continue- cost \$13.9 mil

Trustees have recommended an increase to the pre 1997 flat benefit- from \$62.06 to \$63.30- cost \$3.4 mil


Trustees have recommended a retiree increase of .85%- cost \$15.3 mil

All these improvements combined are \$32.6 mil

Your trustees want to remind everyone that the plan is in great shape and that we will continue to search for investments and governance practices that enhance our plan. We are conservative in nature and believe whatever we do inside the plan that we are confident with a high degree of certainty that benefits promised can and will be delivered far into the future.

Your trustees also want to remind all members of the plan that we undertake retiree audits every 2 years. These audits are to ensure good governance and to ensure that we are not paying out benefits to someone who is not entitled to receive those benefits. It is important for all of us to help our retired members fill out and return these forms to the plan in a timely manner to avoid interruption of benefit payments.

Please check out your individual retirement portfolio's at:

www.pulpandpaperpension.hroffice.com 



Creating Pharmacare for All

By Kelly Johnson
President, Confederation of
Canadian Unions

November 2018

It may surprise some Canadians that our country remains the only one on the planet with a universal health care system that also doesn't include prescription medication.

You heard me correctly. Every single country throughout the industrialized world – except the United States – has some form of universal, public drug program that provides relatively affordable prescription medicines to all of its citizens.

As far back as 1964, the Royal Commission on Health Services recommended that Canada implement a universal, public pharmacare program following the introduction of universal coverage of medical care, which finally took place in two years later 1966.

Pharmacare was also a central feature of the original vision of Tommy Douglas, when he began creating universal health programs as Premier of Saskatchewan in the late 1940s.

The reality is that Canadians want it. According to a recent Angus Reid national survey, 91% of Canadians agree with the concept of a universal Pharmacare program, and 81% believe this should be a priority issue.

Canadians spend over \$30 billion to fill more than 600 million prescriptions each year. That's more than four times what they spent on prescriptions just two decades ago. Drug prices continue to skyrocket for Canadians and more people have to choose between getting the medications they need and paying for necessities, like food or rent.

Currently, 2 million Canadians incur over \$1,000 a year in out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs, and one in five Canadian families can't even afford to fill their prescriptions because of cost.

With a national pharmacare plan, millions of Canadians would no longer have to endure ongoing

financial crisis owing to their health needs. They will no longer have to worry about paying for prescription medicines, rent or food.

In fact, pharmacare would save money, because far too many Canadians aren't taking their prescribed medications due to increasing prices. This causes many to later develop illnesses and diseases which place financial burdens on other services within the Canadian health care system that cost far more than those medications would have in the first place.

Canada's parliamentary budget officer stated in 2017 that a national pharmacare program would save over \$4.2 billion every year, not only for Canadian workers, but for business owners as well who will no longer have to pay ever-increasing prescription coverage rates for employees.

But most importantly, pharmacare would also save lives.

Prescription drugs are among the most important components of modern health care. When prescribed and used appropriately, they can prevent and cure disease, and extend and improve the quality of life.

It's interesting to listen to opponents of pharmacare state that it would be too expensive, or that Canadians don't really care, or that it's "too radical," when all of these assumptions have been proven demonstrably false time and time again.



As for unionized workers who may already enjoy prescription drug coverage through their collective agreements, having a national, public pharmacare program would put upward bargaining pressure on those plans and make them even stronger and more comprehensive than ever before.

Canadians have been waiting long enough for affordable prescription drugs. It's time for action. That's why the Confederation of Canadian Unions has created an online petition calling for the creation of a universal pharmacare program, which has already been signed by almost 7,000 people, and the number is climbing. Please go to our website and sign the petition. And please tell your co-workers, friends and family members to do the same as well.

Just as our nation did with universal health care over half a century ago, Canada must live up to its original promise and establish a universal, comprehensive, publicly-administered and sustainable pharmacare program that works for everyone. 🍁

Closing of GM Plant in Oshawa is a Symptom of a Larger Economic Problem

By Kelly Johnson

November 2018

Canadians were stunned when General Motors (GM) recently announced its plans to cut 15% of its salaried workforce and close five plants throughout North America, one of them being the Oshawa plant that employs more than 2,500 workers. First opened on November 7, 1953, the plant employed as many as 23,000 people during the 1980s.

The Confederation of Canadian Unions stands in support with the workers, their families, and the community, but real policy alternatives must be developed to prevent this from happening again to others throughout the country.

While workers at the plant and its union, UNIFOR Local 222, are doing everything they can to fight for their jobs and pensions, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was in warm, sunny Argentina just three days later – and not without irony – signing a corporate, free trade agreement with the United States and Mexico that some refer to as “NAFTA 2.0.”

This comes exactly 10 years after General Motors received a \$60 billion bailout package from the Canadian, Ontario and U.S. governments, which included \$10.8 billion of Canadian government assistance in exchange for 12% ownership of company shares.

Since then, the former Ontario government and former federal government of Stephen Harper sold its shares back to GM – just when it began making a profit again, of course. UNIFOR is correctly arguing that our governments should have kept its shares and used the ownership as leverage to force GM to re-invest and maintain jobs in Oshawa (as well as St. Catharines).

After giving GM billions of dollars of bailout funds, both taxpayers and members of UNIFOR Local 222 alike are right when they call this “bailout-and-run” calamity a slap in the face.

For forty years, we’ve been told over and over again that corporate free trade agreements, along with tax cuts for business and the investment class, attacks on

unions and collective bargaining, and government spending cuts, were going to create a climate for investment that would rain good-paying, middle class jobs.

And the evidence has shown, in painful detail, this has been proven demonstrably, spectacularly, fabulously, head-bangingly, and mind-crushingly false. Advocates for corporate, free trade might as well start believing the earth is flat. Yet in the parallel universe of Ontario Premier Doug Ford, whose favourite punchline is “Ontario is open for business,” this is just another financial decision for his corporate friends.

UNIFOR is currently calling on GM to allocate product to the Oshawa plant past its current run date of December 2019. The plant is one of the most efficient and profitable in North America, with a decorated and highly skilled workforce. At the same time, GM sales and profit margins are both increasing, and its balance sheets are, even according to the business media, very healthy.



As Oshawa NDP Member of Provincial Parliament Jennifer French commented: “GM didn’t build Oshawa. Oshawa built GM.”

Since the early 1970s, the CCU has called for the elimination of corporate welfare bailouts and instead, the establishment of a nationwide, made-in-Canada industrial strategy of democratic, public ownership that protects decent jobs, our environment and extends workers’ rights. Canada remains one of the few countries in the world that doesn’t have its own industrial strategy.

As long as so-called free trade agreements give corporations almost unlimited power over workers and governments, and attacks on workers’ rights and increasing inequality continue, the middle class in Canada will be hollowed out, and more examples of de-industrialization and economic uncertainty will put further communities throughout the country at risk.

Unfortunately, the entire GM “bailout-and-run” debacle of the past decade isn’t the beginning of this process, but just a continuation of it. 🍁



THE CONFEDERATION
OF CANADIAN UNIONS

A Few Words from Your Occupational Health & Safety Officer...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Winter has arrived for most of the Province with snow and cold weather in parts of the province and rain on the wet coast. There were lots of predictions of a cold winter, but so far so good. Let's hope the mountains get their share so the forests have lots of snow pack for the Spring.

With the new era of our weather phenoniums we seem to be having these days, from devastating wild fires to floods and wicked snow storms, we have to be more aware than ever to the rapid weather changes. Safety is even more important. Highways are getting tougher to drive as people seem to think they can handle the weather and don't slow down to road conditions. It seems that when a highway speed sign says 100 km per hour no matter what the condition it is, British Columbians want to drive that speed and then more. Fortunately, more of us seem to have that part under control.

So, with the changes in conditions, take the time to adjust. This is no different than work; lets get home in the same condition as we left.

I believe that you should take safety home with yourself. We look at safety at work very diligently so we don't get hurt and focus on many reasons to achieve this. We have risk assessments in place to help make awareness, crew safety talks to make sure your mind is in the game and to focus on the task at hand. Well, how do you apply these same standards in your everyday life outside of work?

I like how industry has changed over the years when it comes to snow shovels. They have ergonomically shaped handles to take care of how you are shoveling and throwing the snow. They are definitely more expensive, but what a difference they make when handling the white stuff. I live on the coast so on the rare occasion that it does snow, it seems to be a lot heavier, so the ergonomic handle has been great. I also found an extra handle you can attach to the shovel mid way down for throwing the snow. This also was also efficient as it gives you more options to not hurt yourself when doing this very physical task. It was also very interesting to see a snow blowing shovel. You have love new inventions.

With the colder temperatures this time of year at work, you have to be extremely careful. For a shift worker who is coming into work when it is dark for a longer period of time, the hidden dangers are even more present than other times of the year. You don't always see that icy spot. If you come across it, take the extra time to spread salt and sand on it for the next person that may come along. If none is around, stop in and report it so it can be looked after before someone does slip and fall. Slips and falls make up for a large part of safety reported incidents this time of year. Give yourself that little bit of extra stopping distance if you are driving heavy machinery.

With your work gear, make sure it is suited for the conditions you are working in. Personal protective safety items are very important. If you are not being supplied with the appropriate gear that is needed to do your job safely, get your Union Occupational Health and Safety reps involved. If you get hurt, report it. If the root cause is found to be that proper safety items were not provided, this is an issue. Get your local reps involved. They have the training and usually the success in getting the safety items needed when company staff, for whatever reason, will not supply them. In the eyes of WCB, Occupational Health and Safety committees have a lot of regulatory power to succeed. Last thing a company wants is WCB investigating something that could have been remedied through the committee.

I always like to say and remind all of you to always report an incident of any kind. Even if its not about a wage loss claim. Injuries can develop in many ways and also days after a seamlessly simple event that you thought "hey that wasn't much. I am ok". Or "I am fine I don't need time off." Report it because if you do need to report the injury down the road, it makes a claim successful a lot easier and quicker. You can also phone into the First Aid at your work place and report it over the phone. If you are off for a couple of days because your tour has finished and you were sore or you had a small event and thought that you'd heal over during the days off, its better to report it just in case its not better and you find yourself having having to explain yourself after the fact. Not all claims for injury get accepted when this type of scenario happens. So better to report and document.

National Safety Update:

The Health and Welfare conference was a jam packed 2 days of events. We had a great speaker from the Human Rights Advocacy group and she put on a half day seminar on marijuana and that questioned "is your workplace ready?" It also touched on accommodations. I will say that no rules have changed

(Continued on page 13)

since the legalization of recreation use of marijuana in Canada. Work place laws and rules did not change. What this new law has done is toughen up rules in the work place and forced companies that didn't have policies in place, to create them. I know a couple of companies that have just implanted new policies if you are caught under the influence. The new buzz work in industry is 'safety sensitive jobs'. This is how most of our jobs are looked at now and if you do have a strong policy in place, it is becoming an effective way to achieve testing for substances if an event happens. It still stands no different that what the rule was before the October law that came into place. Zero tolerance of workplace drugs and alcohol.

We held another seminar on sleep deprivation for shift workers. This brought a lot of good information to the reps including information and studies around blue light effect on our Acadian rhythms of sleep. Blue light

blocking safety glasses for shift workers are starting to come into work places so ask your reps about them. If you don't have them by now, there is a good chance that they will soon be no different than a pair of eye glasses that are now readily available. Talk to your Safety reps about it.

Well, be safe everyone and always remember that safety starts with you. Best of the Season to all.

In Solidarity,
Rod Gallant
Occupational Health & Safety Officer



What Hazards or Dangerous Work Habits Do You See?

Find the answer key located on page 24.



On the Forestry Front...

The following two op-eds were written by Ben Parfitt, Resource Policy Analyst at the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives (BC) The 'TimberWest Log Export' article ran in the The Sun and The Province. The 'Making the Shift' article ran in The Times Colonist.

TimberWest Log Export

TimberWest is consistently one of the top exporters of raw, unprocessed logs from British Columbia's coastal forests.

The company also has growing ties with Island Timberlands, B.C.'s other top log exporter. The two companies share roads, log sort yards and other infrastructure to generate more profits.

"As affiliated companies, TimberWest and Island Timberlands can each do more to plan and invest for the future of a stable, competitive coastal forest sector," TimberWest's CEO, Jeff Zweig said earlier this year when the companies formalized their affiliation plans.

Zweig's assertion was not seriously challenged at the time. It should have been.

If anything, B.C.'s coastal communities are being destabilized by company operations, for the simple reason that neither TimberWest nor Island Timberlands own or operate one sawmill between them.

The companies make their money logging and exporting raw logs from some of the province's most productive forests, including old-growth trees at the southern extent of the coast's Great Bear Rainforest. They also sell off private forestlands that they have just stripped of their trees to real estate developers.

This may be good for the companies owners – pension fund managers in B.C. and Alberta – but it most certainly does not lead to "stable" communities and flourishing forests.

TimberWest's and Island Timberlands' owners know that when it comes to employing people in the forest industry the greatest number of jobs are generated turning logs into a vast array of wooden products – everything from the lumber used to frame a house to finely crafted acoustic guitars. Other major raw log exporters such as Western Forest Products know this as well.

Last year in B.C., the logging sector accounted for about 18,600 jobs. But that was only 28 per cent of total employment in the industry. More than 47,000 jobs or 72 per cent of the total were in manufacturing.

The statistics don't lie. The more you do with each unit

of wood you take from the forest the more jobs you generate. It's that simple.

Happily, that point was underscored this October when Langley-based San Group Inc. announced that it will invest up to \$70-million in a trio of mills in Port Alberni that will eventually employ up to 135 men and women. The announcement marks the first time in well over a decade that any company has made a significant investment in a new coastal mill.

San's mills will turn smaller Douglas fir and hemlock logs from second-growth forests into an array of finished products. Its proposed investment illustrates that there is another pathway to profits that stands in sharp contrast to the "hewers of wood" model that TimberWest, Island Timberlands and others epitomize and that our provincial government continues to enable.

The provincial government can take no credit for the San decision. But it could take some small credit for future such decisions if it did what it has the powers to do.

We believe those key powers include reinstating some form of "appurtenancy" that requires companies holding logging rights on Crown or publicly-owned lands to invest in new mills or risk losing a portion or all of such rights.

We also believe that the government should use its taxation powers to impose steadily higher export fees on companies that propose to ship raw, unprocessed logs that come from Crown or publicly owned forests.

Community prosperity and forest health lies in doing far more with far less.

Our government knows this and needs to act.

We think the most prudent suite of actions would encourage:

- An end to the unsustainable logging of remaining old-growth forests.

- An end to the unsustainable exportation of raw, unprocessed logs from prime old-growth and second-growth forests.

- New investments in new second-growth mills.

There's every reason to believe that if the government adopts such a strategy we can actually increase forest

(Continued on page 15)

industry employment, make communities like Port Alberni more stable and prosperous, and protect more old-growth forests at the same time. 🍁

Making the Shift

British Columbia's coastal forests and forest industry are at a dangerous tipping point.

Thanks to the ongoing liquidation of old-growth forests, ongoing export of huge numbers of raw logs, and ongoing failure of both left-leaning and right-leaning governments to act, we have only a short time to turn things around.

Anyone who knows the trends understands what we must do. We must conserve more of our rapidly diminishing older forests. And we must invest in new mills that reverse the steady loss of manufacturing jobs over the past 30 years.

Those new mills must utilize wood from smaller logs originating in younger, second-growth forests, because there's less and less old-growth forests with each passing day.

The good news is that one company has stepped up to the plate to lead by example. In October, Langley's San Group Inc. announced that it will invest \$60-million to \$70-million in a trio of mills that will eventually employ up to 135 men and women. The announcement marks the first time in well over a decade that any company has made a significant investment in a new coastal mill.

Three things make San's investment noteworthy.

Its log supply will come from smaller, second-growth Douglas fir and hemlock trees.

The mills will be located right next to the Catalyst paper mill, meaning the paper mill gets badly-needed wood chips from the sawmills, while the sawmills get steam from the paper mill to use either for power or heat.

Lastly, the logs utilized by the new mills will mean far less waste and fewer raw log exports.

This is just the kind of development that Forests Minister Doug Donaldson and his Cabinet colleagues should seize upon as evidence of how we can and must do things differently in a province where a dangerous complacency has set in. This is especially the case when we think about the community in which those much-needed investments will be made.

That community is Port Alberni, where last year only shortly after Donaldson was appointed minister,

Western Forest Products permanently closed its Somass sawmill at a cost of 80 lost jobs.

Western or WFP is the largest forest company on B.C.'s coast. It has benefitted enormously from access to vast amounts of publically owned forest. Yet it is the third-largest exporter of raw, unprocessed logs from our coast. It has made no moves to investments in new mills. Meanwhile, the gap continues to widen between the number of trees WFP logs in coastal forests and the number of logs it runs through its own sawmills, with roughly two trees logged for every one run through its mills.

It is easy to see where that leads. It leads to the door opening ever-wider to the export of more raw logs from our province and the continued depletion of old-growth forests.

In the past five years, log exports in British Columbia averaged more than 6 million cubic metres per year. The economic and social consequences of that are a conservatively estimated 3,600 fewer domestic manufacturing jobs – good-paying jobs that once drove economies and provided a solid tax base in communities and that could do so again.

The longer we allow today's sorry state of affairs to continue, the less opportunity there will be to invest in new mills and make the transition we all know must be made.

Most of the logging that occurs on our coast is on publicly-owned lands that the Province has powers to enact policies on and that we share with First Nations. We need new policies, developed openly and in conjunction with coastal First Nations, that encourage more domestic manufacturing, discourage exports of raw or minimally processed logs, and encourage more old-growth forest protection.

The province has powers to price natural resources. It has power to reallocate public resources. It's time it used those powers to make the changes we all know must be made. 🍁



Local 8's Environmental & Forestry Representative Brad Heskin, Erik Piikkila, Forest, Watershed, & Historical Ecologist & Ecoforester along with Gary Fiege, and Glenn Calder, toured the Late Merv Wilkinson Wildwood EcoForest on October 31st, 2018.

Brad Heskin wrote the following report on the Wildwood Ecoforest.

PPWC Local 8 Forestry and Environment Committee Report

We recently had the opportunity to meet with Erik Piikkila, who is a Forest, Watershed, & Historical Ecologist & Ecoforester. Erik works with Yellowpoint Ecological Society and Wildwood EcoForest (among others).

As part of our meeting with Erik, we were able to participate in an educational tour of Wildwood EcoForest.



A tour of the Wildwood Ecoforest. Pictured L to R: Glenn Calder, Gary Fiege, Erik Piikkila

For those who are not aware, Wildwood is the late Merv Wilkinson's world-renowned Ecoforestry site just south of Nanaimo, here on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Beginning in 1938, Merv harvested timber from Wildwood in a way that maintained a healthy vibrant forest ecosystem. His pioneering work in forest stewardship and single tree selection showed a viable alternative to clear-cut logging, and has educated and inspired people world-wide in their efforts to change forest policy and preserve forests.

Four out of our five Certifications at Local 8 are directly linked to the forestry industry. The current logging practices in British Columbia are not sustainable for the future, and are currently damaging our environment.

You would think that with all this logging going on, timber workers and their communities would be prospering, but nothing could be further from the truth. That's because since 2003 the big logging companies

in BC, who used to be obligated by the provincial government to operate lumber mills within the province, are now no longer required to do so.

Raw log exports from public and private forestlands in coastal BC have been going way up, at the same time we hear "our" leader say things like "The only logs that leave B.C. should be the logs that we can't use in B.C. communities, in B.C. mills and B.C. wood-product manufacturing." Premier John Horgan said this in an NDP release in early 2017. It's time for us to hold our government accountable for what they preach!

I encourage everyone reading this to take the opportunity to go check out Wildwood Ecoforest, right here in our back yard. We all can learn from the tour, and connect with the nature most of us enjoy in our spare time.

I would also encourage anyone that is concerned about what is going on in our logging industry to email your concerns to your local MLA, Ministry of Forestry, and/or the Premier himself. These are our public servants, and it's their job to listen to our concerns. They are obligated to read their emails.

In solidarity,
Brad Heskin-PPWC Local 8 Forestry/Environment
🍁 Executive member

Forest Summit

The PPWC will be facilitating a forest summit in early 2019 with former National President, Arnie Bercov as well as current President, Gary Fiege, Forest Resource Officer, Glenn Calder and will include many forestry stakeholders. This will bring many different groups to the table to discuss our current issues within today's industry.

The purpose of this summit is to try to understand the State of the Forest: the ecological, economic and social values that our forests provide. Especially Ecological Assets and Ecological Goods and Services.

The summit will cover current issues such as preserving old growth valley bottoms and transitioning to a second growth industry, cutting sustainably, and reducing Raw Log Exports.

We will also make a special effort to include university students in ecological, environmental, geography, forest science, watershed science, community planning, botany, and forest management.

They are the next generation of scientists, leaders, policy makers, and politicians so we need to include them and have a place for them at the Big Table and hear their voices and thoughts! 🍁

Administrative Meeting

On October 1 & 2, 2018, office staff from the PPWC locals and National office staff met at the National office in Vancouver, BC for a two day Administrative Meeting.

Locals 1, 2, 8, 9, 18, 26 were in attendance along with two National office Administrators.

This meeting was extremely valuable as nothing can replace a round table meeting to discuss issues, troubleshoot, problem solve, advise and support.

The topics that were discussed included office operation improvements, proper financial and audit procedure review, cons and pros of Sage 50 accounting program software, online banking related issues, billing, standardize PPWC documents, Leaflet, production, and office safety.

This experience opened the door for future information to flow smoothly between the Locals and National office. This also increased the comfortability among all the office staff.

Everyone appreciated the support and felt like their voices were heard. All went home with useful information and we all hope to hold another meeting in the future.

It was evident among the group that we are all proud to be apart of such an innovative Union. 🍁



Pictured left to right: Michelle Haine of Local 2, Julie Ross of Local 9, Nadya Sofonoff of Local 26, Janine Freeland of Local 8, Jaimie Coulton of Local 18, Deb Basran of Local 1, Christina Nelson and Chen Xu of the National office.

My History With The PPWC Local No. 1 by Deb Basran

I have a long history with PPWC Local No. 1 which started the day I was born into a union family.

My father, William Thomas Harrison, retired at the age of 56 after 33 years of a member in good standing with Local No. 1.

My mother, Anne Harrison, retired after 25 of service as Office Administrator for Local No. 1.

Myself, in my teens one of my first jobs was cleaning the Local No. 1 office. Then in 1988 I was hired as temporary/holiday relief person until 1996 when I assumed the permanent position of Office Administrator.

My husband, Terry Basran, has been and still is, a member in good standing of Local No. 1 since 1989.

My son, Riley, has been and still is, a member in good standing of Local No. 1 since 2010.

My daughter, Charla, was a member in good standing working as a summer student in 2008, 2009 and 2011. As a result of the summer student program, cultivated by Local No. 1, in 2014 she graduated with a Masters Degree in Marine and Coastal Management (Iceland) and in 2019 will complete her PhD in Marine Biology (Iceland)...debt free!

Unionism runs deep in my family as my children are third generation PPWC Local No. 1 members.

From the Desk of the Environmental Officer...

Below is an account of Dean MacKinnon and Glenn Calder's Environmental/Forestry tour of the Kootenays and Vancouver Island reported by Dean MacKinnon:

Kootenays Tour

October 9, 2018

Local 26, Selkirk College

Glenn and I started our tour by meeting with Local 26 in the morning on October 9, 2018. We met with their President, Rod Fayant. Rod, Glenn and I spoke about issues that the Local requested to be addressed by the National. Rod took us for a tour of the college where we met up with Nadya Sofonoff and Niki Menard. We also had the privilege to meet with a number of PPWC members. Selkirk has a very good forestry program.

Local 1, Mercer Celgar

Next, we attended a tour of Mercer Celgar of Local 1. We looked at the Woodyard, the Wood Room and had a great conversation with the companies log purchaser. Glenn and I managed to speak to members and found that they were grateful they belong to the wonderful PPWC Union. We were impressed with the cleanliness of Celgar and the overall condition of the mill itself. After wrapping up the chords of the tour, we journeyed on to Local 1's membership meeting. The meeting went well and as National officers, we felt gratefully received.

October 10, 2018

Local 15, Skookumchuck Pulp Mill

Happy 50th birthday Skookumchuck!

After we arrived at the Skookumchuck Pulp Mill we met with PPWC Local environmental officers, Lewis Jones and Mike Oakland, who took us on tour. We started at the Skookumchuck River, which is the mills primary water intake.

We attended their regular monthly meeting with our officers and the Company's environmental staff. Our officers composed themselves well. Glenn and I attended the Skookumchuck Pulp Mill executive meeting that is held a couple hours before their membership meeting.

Vancouver Island Tour

November 14, 2018

Glen and I started the tour off by attending Local 8's general membership meeting on the night of

Wednesday, November 14th. The meeting was well attended with 56 members in attendance. Local 8 has approximately 450 members throughout all of its certs. Various elections were held during the meeting, with the final elections happening at the next general membership meeting. It was Gerald De Jong's and Les Hillier's last meeting as President and 1st Vice-President. Now, both long time PPWC boys prepare for their retirement. It was a pleasure to see the support and gratitude that Gerald and Les received from their locals' tribesmen. Local 8 will now welcome Rod Gallant to the helm as their new President. Good luck Rod!



Shores of the San Juan Bay

November 15, 2018

Long Hoh

Local 8's Forestry/Environmental Officer, Brad Heskin, Glenn Calder and I ventured to Long Hoh Sawmill. We were greeted by Sean Demeria from the PPWC and Ralph Thomas, Mill Manager. Sean led us on a tour around a very well laid out mill. We had the pleasure of talking to almost every PPWC member on the claim.

Ladysmith

Mike Van Erk took us on tour of their mill. The mill produces at a high speed taking 10,000 logs and converting them into roughly 39,000 pieces of lumber per day. The mill produces a nice product using a different technique instead of traditional saw blades.

WTP Value Added

The tour of value-added start with us meeting mill manager Earl Kelly and PPWC member James Macgregor in their board room. Earl gave us a good run down of the mill's operations, wood supply and environmental program. The Mill takes pride in their

(Continued on page 19)

effort to maintain a good safety program. From what James said, the company really is highly safety conscience.

November 16/18

Harmac Pulpmill

Glenn, Brad and I headed to Harmac Friday morning. We went to Ken Morrison’s office for an introduction to Ken and Dave. Both have an extreme wealth of knowledge of the mills environmental department. Ken took us on a tour of them mill, which situated right on the shoreline of the ocean.

On Wednesday night, we attended Local #8’s general membership meeting

Erik Piikkila

After touring Harmac, Glen and I headed back to Ladysmith for an outdoor meeting with Erik Piikkila.

We picked Erik up and headed to the Holland Trail Head and began our meeting. Erik showed evidence of past logging that dated back many years.

November 17, 2018

Avatar Trail Hike

Glenn and I traveled from Nanaimo through Lake Cowichan to Port Renfrew. What an awesome part of the province. Our mission was to check out logging, reforestation practices, ecosystem damage, second

growth values, and whether clearcutting is the proper logging technique.

Our next mission was to hike the Avatar Trail to have an in-depth look at what concerns the Ancient Forest Alliance has with old growth logging.

November 19, 2018

Local #2 General Membership Meeting

Local 2 had a great meeting; there were 90 members in attendance. They had similar topics that all the other mills discussed at their meetings.

Thanks to all the locals for their wonderful hospitality.

In Solidarity,
Dean MacKinnon, Environmental Officer



Environmental Officer, Dean MacKinnon on the Avatar Trail with a couple who travelled from Montreal to take in the beauty of the Old Growth Forest.



In Loving Memory of

Jamie Huisman, Local 1
Fred Mullin, Local 2
Clifford Simpson, Local 2
Thomas McCabe, Local 9
Albert Senner, Local 9
Bruce Larson, Local 9
James Finnigan, Local 9
Gordon McCue, Local 9
Gary Newell, Local 9
John Woodhouse, Local 9
Harnaik Gill, Local 9
William Patterson, Local 9
Ronald Leboe, Local 9

The PPWC would like to take a moment to honor those who passed away this year.

Lawrence Bell, Local 9
Oiva Salmonson, Local 9
Stefan Lopert, Local 9
Donald Druskee, Local 9
Jeffrey Hancock, Local 9
Albert Ziemer, Local 9
Colin Bateman, Local 15
Dave Phillips, Local 15
Bob Dolce, Local 15
Jack Poole, Local 15
Graham Willmott, Local 15
Martin Delasablonniere, Local 18
Dave Hoeving, Local 18

BC Liberal Leader Andrew Wilkinson Endorses New Campaign Attacking Unions in British Columbia Liberal

Anti-union campaign backed by BC Liberal leader relies on bogus numbers

October 31, 2018

The BC Liberals just endorsed a new astroturf campaign against British Columbia's labour unions. Yesterday, BC Liberal leader Andrew Wilkinson joined leaders of the Alberta-headquartered Progressive Contractors' Association at the BC Legislature for the launch of "Money Well Wasted", a campaign targeting BC's Community Benefits Agreement with bogus numbers.

The CBA guarantees that public infrastructure projects in British Columbia will create better paying jobs for local workers, better training and apprenticeships, as well as more trades opportunities for Indigenous people and women in a number of public construction projects.

The PCA is an anti-union advocacy group led by CEOs and executives in the construction industry.

The group is also a major donor to the BC Liberals and a proud supporter of Ontario premier Doug Ford who just passed legislation to gut Ontario's labour laws.

Even though the CBA is supported by a number of unions and local businesses, the PCA insists it "isn't right or responsible" for the BC government to hire unionized workers for public infrastructure projects.

In a series of Twitter posts, the PCA's campaign attacked the CBA using recycled graphics produced by the Independent Contractors and Builders Association (ICBA), a big business lobby group.

In another tweet, the anti-union group also claimed the CBA will add "30% to construction costs" on unionized projects like the Patullo Bridge replacement.

It's not clear where the group got that number from. They cite a pamphlet published by an social conservative think tank called Cardus, except that

pamphlet offers a broad guesstimate of "anywhere from two to 25%," not 30%.

Cardus is a somewhat dubious source on labour issues. The think tank describes itself as "rooted in Christian thought" and once argued unions should stop focusing on collective bargaining and organize social events for their members instead.

The BC government says it expects only a "4-7 percent" increase for the Patullo Bridge budget and that the extra costs are to help pay for apprenticeship programs. BC currently has a shortage of skilled labour and industry professionals say apprenticeships are needed to fill the growing demand for more construction workers.


Based on its bogus numbers, Cardus recommends splitting up the CBA workforce into what it calls "traditional" and "alternative" unions – a union-busting tactic which allows so-called "employer-friendly unions" to undermine the bargaining power of unions who represent employee interests.

The "Money Well Wasted" campaign also falsely suggests that "85%" of BC's construction workers are ineligible to work under the CBA because they don't already belong to the "union cartel" that employees are required to join while working on BC's public infrastructure projects – except no local workers are excluded from joining the union and working under the CBA.

This campaign isn't the first time the PCA has attempted to wield political influence in BC.

Although the PCA insists on its website that it is not "anti-union," the group gave more than \$56,000 to Christy Clark's BC Liberals, known for ripping up union agreements with healthcare workers, passing legislation making it easier for companies to exploit child labour, and sparring with the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Federation of Labour.

The PCA's chairperson, Jeff Watt, is the president of Ledcor, a major construction firm that has donated a total of \$334,000 to the BC Liberals since 2006.

Keeping in step with the PCA's anti-union messaging, the BC Liberals recently launched their own attacks against the CBA. In a caucus statement, Liberal Jobs and Trade Critic Greg Kylo admitted "unemployment rates in B.C. remain low, but that's because the NDP has added 20,000 public sector jobs." However, he claimed that public sector workers hired under the CBA "add nothing to the economy" (economic studies actually show that robust public sector employment has important redistributive effects and stimulates demand in other sectors.) 

The 5th Annual Walbran Valley Convergence

President Gary Fiege spoke at the 5th Annual Walbran Valley Convergence hosted by Friends of the Walbran and Wilderness Committee. This annual gathering is a celebration of forest activism and the ongoing fight to protect the Walbran and all threatened ancient forests on the westcoast.

This event is to build unity towards the protection of endangered rainforests and a just transition to sustainable second-growth forestry that prioritizes Indigenous rights and title and local communities.

Below is Gary Fiege's powerful speech

The Public and Private Workers of Canada is honoured to have been invited here to present today. The PPWC is proud to say we are a rank and file labour movement that is different and is much more than other unions worried only about dollars and cents per hour. We have a commitment to the greater community; a real social conscience.

Our history of pushing for environmental reform is clearly seen in our constitution and the fact that we put such a high priority on the environment that we have an officer dedicated solely to its protection.

As history will attest at the six pulp mills we represent throughout this great province, we pushed tirelessly to get dioxins out of our waste streams thus ridding our atmosphere, waters and land of this deadly poison. As well, we supported secondary treatment of our effluent before it was sent back to rivers and oceans, again leaving less of an environment footprint.

Companies pushed back hard on us, stating "We cannot afford to make these changes." Dare I say; that although we knew what the right thing to do was, it was always in the back of our minds that with this stance, we were putting our member's jobs on the line. Ultimately, however our members cared enough to support our vision and change occurred. Today our mills do not pollute the environment like they did in the



Gary Fiege with Adam Olsen, MLA of the BC Green Party
Kaxi:ks Unceded Pacheedaht Territory

decades up to the 1990s. Our living spaces are a safer place because of it. In Crofton, the clam beds have rebounded giving the Halalt Nation access to their traditional food source.

These are just a couple of items that I can point to showing we care about the communities, the environment and ultimately the planet as a whole.

Over the last two decades a lot of our focus was on banning log exports. Arnold Bercov pushed tirelessly to this end. We have held many, many rally's trying to engage the public and force government, both Liberal and now the NDP into action. However, while we peacefully rallied tens of thousands of forest workers jobs were lost, all the while log exports sky rocketed, year after year, unchecked for nearly as long as we have been protesting.

Banning log exports is an easy mantra, one that on its face we all can relate to. However, the statement is hollow without viable alternatives. These alternatives



Bill Jones, Elder from the Pacheedaht Nation and Adam Olson, MLA of the BC Green Party share a handshake in the Walbran Valley.

(Continued on page 22)

include but are not limited to; reinvestment into second growth capable sawmills and development of secondary industries. With these changes the mills we represent will be ensured dependable fiber supplies into the future, thus negating the need for companies to rely on fiber from old growth forests. These changes will need legislative direction; for the companies involved with the export of raw logs are more than happy with the status quo, and in fact are lobbying the government to this end.

We also realized we needed to work with all stakeholders to come to solutions that, to the best extent take into account all with a vested interest in our forests specifically; and all resources generally.

We have worked tirelessly to get First Nations included as partners in the forest and resource sector. We were the first union that I know of who signed on to UNDRIP – “United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People” as well endorsing the “Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s” recommendations.

I am extremely proud to say “The Public and Private Workers of Canada will continue to work with Indigenous peoples to recognize and uphold these rights.”

During this same time period, we also came to the conclusion that we need to work with environmental groups such as the Western Wilderness Committee to ensure while we transition to a second growth industry that we do what society as a whole (including our members) wants; and that is “To protect the last of the remaining old growth forests.”

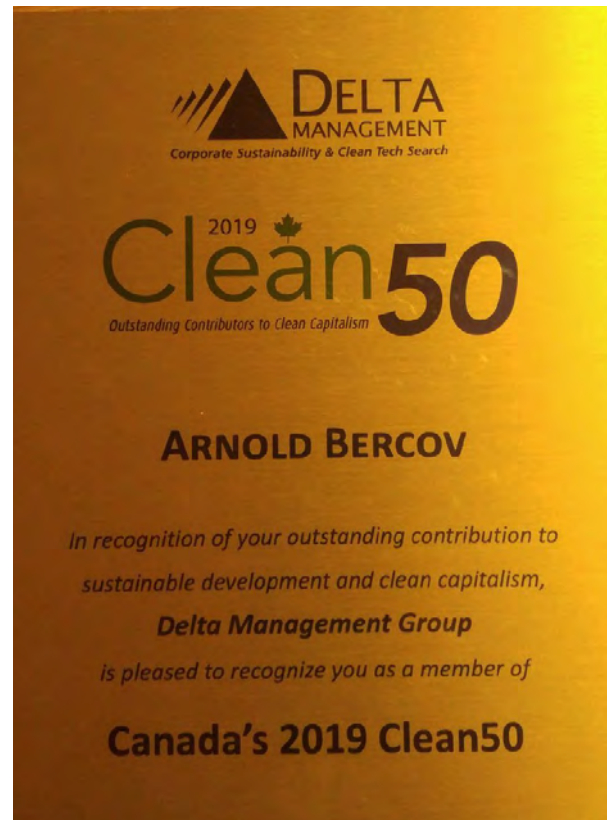
I say transition because our union and its mills under the current model rely heavily on the residual fiber and whole pulp logs from old growth forests. I say transition because unfortunately the legislative changes will not happen overnight nor will attracting investors, building the needed infrastructure and manufacturing

facilities, will take time.

We are standing here amongst giants. It is awe inspiring to think of the entire west coast covered in forests such as these but it is also sad to think our children may never have the chance unless we save some of these unique habitats.

These pristine valley bottoms are one of the crown jewels of Vancouver Island and once they are gone, they are gone forever. Therefore, time is of the essence and we need to continue to put pressure on government and industry to change.

I know for a fact we the Public and Private Workers of Canada already have! 🍁



2019 Clean50 Award

Delta Management Group is a 25 year old search firm based in Toronto with search practices in high tech, clean tech, and sustainability and corporate social responsibility practitioners.

Delta is the founder of the Clean50 award, which recognizes 50 individuals who have made the greatest contributions to sustainable development or clean capitalism in Canada

PPWC former president, Arnold Bercov has been awarded the 2019 Clean50 award. Congratulations Arnold! 🍁



PPWC National Forest Resource Officer, Glenn Calder, enjoying the speeches in the Walbran Valley.

Perceptions

My curiosity on the history of immigration led me to an interesting read on Wikipedia. According to the experts, the Inuit and Indigenous peoples arrived in North America about 1,200 BC. During the late 10th century the Norsemen arrived, settling fringe areas of North America along the North Atlantic coast. The European explorer, John Cabot, landed in what is now called Canada in 1497, and claimed it for King Henry VII of England. Portuguese and Spanish explorers also visited Canada, but it was the French who first began to explore further into the interior, to trade for furs which were in demand and popular in Europe.



A poster from the late 1800s to advertise the opportunities in Canada's West.

In 1763 Catherine the Great Issued a Manifesto to invite foreigners to settle Russia and then in 1862 the US enacted the Homestead Act inviting immigrants to America. Canada promoted the Homestead Act in 1896 to 1905 and then the Dominion Lands Act, allowing ethnic or religious groups asylum and independence.

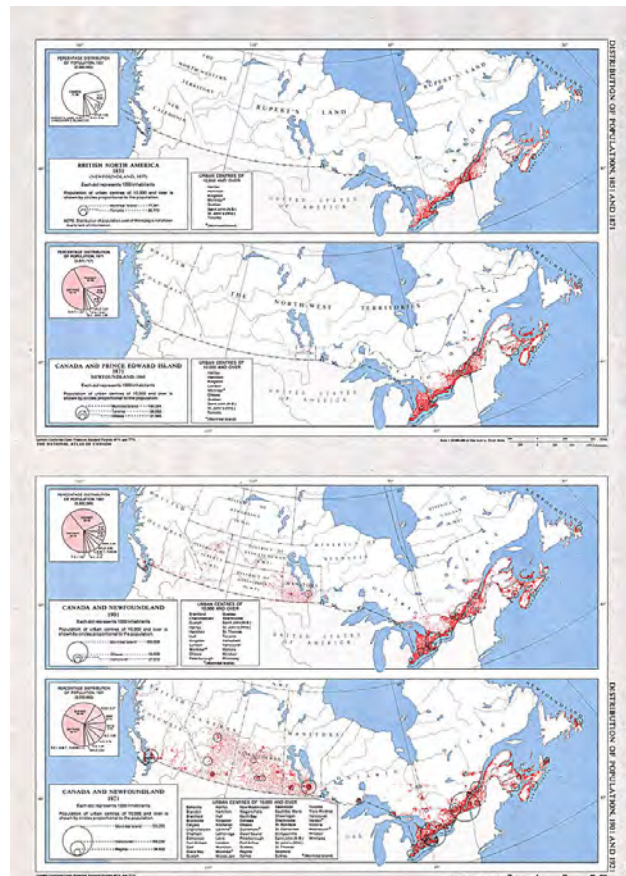
Early Immigration was not only from Europe but also Asia. The latter came via California to the mainland colony, present day B.C, in 1858. As well, many Americans were coming north because of the Civil War. Some were also a part of the Cariboo Gold Rush in the 1860's or with the Overlanders in 1862. British politics with respect to the Dominion led to the settlement of regions in the interior like the Kootenays, Shuswap, Boundary and Okanagan to counter incursions by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and to prevent annexation by the US. In B.C about a third of the population of miners, merchants, ranchers and labourers were Chinese. In 1885, the Chinese Immigration act was enacted, and a head tax was levied to control the ongoing influx of labour. Chinese labour was brought in by the Dunsmuir coal interests to break the back of strikers at Cumberland in the Comox Valley, which then became one of BC's largest Chinatowns as white workers who formerly resided there had been displaced. In Canada, 20th century

exclusion laws were developed to keep out immigrants of Asian descent.

The Industrial Revolution in Europe made many rich, but over population and lack of employment left incredible poverty. The abuses of the European monarchy, the potato famine in Ireland, and land clearances in Scotland made Canada a refuge and a possibility of success for many. The German and the Scandinavian languages were next to Chinese as the most heard in Vancouver. The Doukhobor people settled in Saskatchewan then, en masse, moved to B.C in the West Kootenays and Boundary. Following World War II, "Displaced Persons" from many parts of Europe were resettled in BC and the rest of Canada.

This brief look at history shows how diverse our province is. We have not always treated each other with compassion or consideration, but here we all are. People are leaving their homes and countries, not because they necessarily want to come here, but to leave behind their own grief. Don't get caught up in the media and think ill of them. Our families were once there.

In Solidarity,
Larry Walker ,
NEB, Local 1



A collection of four maps showing the distribution of the Canadian population for 1851, 1871, 1901, and 1921.

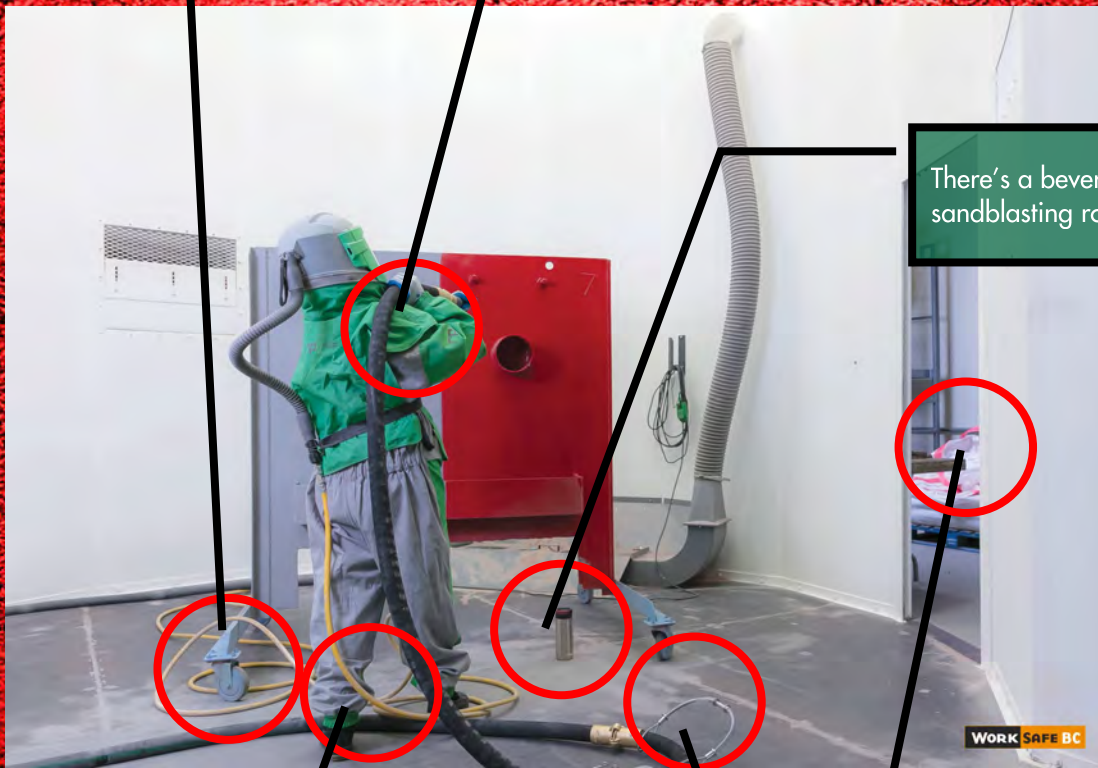
Stay Safe!

Answer key from page 13...

- The hose is incorrectly positioned in between the legs and next to the neck by major arteries.
- The operator's hand is positioned on the nozzle of the sandblaster.
- The operator is not wearing high-pressure sandblasting gloves.
- The operator is not using the safety disconnect to shut down the sandblasting unit in the event the operator drops the hose.

The air line is wrapped around the stand.

There's a beverage in the sandblasting room.



- The operator is not wearing steel-toed boots.
- The hose, air line, and beverage container are tripping hazards.

The door to the sandblasting room is open

- The pins have been removed from the hose coupling.
- The hose safety cable is not in the correct position.